

I will be joining others in leaving the Republican Party, and for the last time. I first registered as a Republican in 1976 and, although I have left the Party a few times, I have always come back, in the failed hopes that some good could come from a political party whose platform I generally agree with.

I have contributed money that I could not spare to Republican campaigns, including that of Governor LePage, whom I will not be voting for in 2014. As a Republican, I have run for a seat in the State House, and I have supported other Republicans by making telephone calls, marching in parades, and handing out literature. I have chaired the Millinocket Caucus, and have served on the Penobscot County Committee, where I was one of only a few who voted legally in their last election. I will not waste a cent of my money or a second of my time on the GOP in the future.

The problems with the Republican Party are many, but one important thing that I have come to realize about the GOP is that it is the party of empty rhetoric. When faced with an election, they often say some of the right things, but they don't mean a word of it, and they can be depended upon to come up against anyone who dares actually to want to do any of that stuff.

In the future, I will not be inclined to vote for anyone who is a registered Republican and, if I should decide to do so, it will be despite the fact that this person is a Republican.

I feel clean.

-- Ken Anderson, Former Penobscot County Member